

Letter from *HeartRhythm*

It is my great pleasure and honor to write a short commentary for the readers of The Journal of Arrhythmia, for 25 years the official journal of the Japan Heart Rhythm Society, but now also the official Journal of the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society. Two of the most respected names in cardiac electrophysiology share editorial duties of this journal: Youichi Kobayashi, representing the Japan Heart Rhythm Society and Tohru Ohe, for the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society. As the founding editor of two electrophysiology journals, I know quite well the challenges they face, but with such strong leadership, I am certain this publication, now with the combined strength of two organizations, will become a leading academic and clinical arrhythmia journal.

The past four decades have witnessed the birth and growth of clinical cardiac electrophysiology. While the roots for this specialty are much older, and in fact date back to the early 1900s with critical observations from many Asian Pacific/Japanese investigators such as Sunao Tawara, who published The Conduction System of the Mammalian Heart in 1906, the clinical application of that knowledge lagged considerably. Electrophysiology as a clinical specialty probably began with the demonstration by Scherlag et al. in 1969¹⁾ that His bundle activity could be recorded routinely in humans with a catheter electrode. That observation led to the development of invasive electrophysiology studies which soon revealed mechanisms and sites of arrhythmias so when ablation techniques were developed, we capitalized on that accumulated knowledge to cure patients of many arrhythmias. Almost simultaneously were the invention and perfection of pacemakers, implantable cardioverter defibrillators, and, most recently, cardiac resynchronization therapy. These devices have improved quality and prolonged the life of hundreds of thousands of patients.

Throughout this development, investigators, both clinical and experimental, from the countries represented by this journal, have been leaders in advancing our electrophysiology knowledge base. Their contributions are among the top submissions from outside the United States to *HeartRhythm* and to the Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology (JCE), when I was still editor. Thus, it is altogether fitting that they are represented by The Journal of Arrhythmia.

It takes time and hard work, and the support of all the members of these two societies to continue to improve this excellent journal. As I said when I founded JCE, the way to create a first rate journal is to publish first rate articles and the way to publish first rate articles is to have a first rate journal! But I am sure it can and will be done and I send you my very best wishes and support as you embark on this new collaborative journey.

Reference

- 1) Scherlag BJ, Lau SH, Helfant RH, Berkowitz WD, Stein E, Damato AN: Catheter technique for recording His bundle activity in man. *Circulation* 39; 13-18, 1969

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